

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (withdrawn) A method of modulating cell growth in a mammal said method comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of an agent for time and under conditions sufficient to modulate the expression of a genetic sequence encoding inhibin.
2. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 1 wherein said cells are prostate cells.
3. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 2 wherein said prostate cells are malignant.
4. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 1 or 2 or 3 wherein said inhibin is α -inhibin.
5. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 4 wherein said modulation of the expression of said genetic sequence is up-regulation.
6. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 5 wherein said up-regulation inhibits cell growth.
7. (withdrawn) A method of modulating cell growth in a mammal said method comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of inhibin.
8. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 7 wherein said cells are prostate cells.
9. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 8 wherein said prostate cells are malignant.
10. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 7 or 8 or 9 wherein said inhibin is α -inhibin.

11. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 10 wherein said modulation of cell growth is inhibition of cell growth.

12. (withdrawn) A method of modulating cell growth in a mammal said method comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of an inhibin antagonist.

13. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 12 wherein said cells are prostate cells.

14. (withdrawn) A method of treating a mammal said method comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of an agent for a time and under conditions sufficient to modulate the expression of a genetic sequence encoding inhibin.

15. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 14 wherein said cells are prostate cells.

16. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 15 wherein said prostate cells are malignant.

17. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 14 or 15 or 16 wherein said inhibin is α -inhibin.

18. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 17 wherein said modulation of the expression of said genetic sequence is up-regulation.

19. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 18 where said up-regulation inhibits cell growth

20. (withdrawn) A method of treating a mammal said method comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of inhibin.

21. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 20 wherein said cells are prostate cells.

22. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 21 wherein said prostate cells are malignant.

23. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 20 or 21 or 22 wherein said inhibin is α -inhibin.

24. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 23 wherein said modulation of cell growth is inhibition of cell growth.

25. (withdrawn) A method of treating a mammal said method comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of an inhibin antagonist.

26. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 25 wherein said cells are prostate cells.

27-39. (canceled)

40. (withdrawn) An agent for use in modulating the expression of a genetic sequence encoding inhibin wherein modulating expression of said genetic sequence modulates cell growth.

41. (withdrawn) An agent according to claim 40 wherein said cells are prostate cells.

42. (withdrawn) An agent according to claim 41 wherein said prostate cells are malignant.

43. (withdrawn) An agent according to claim 40 or 41 or 42 wherein said inhibin is α -inhibin.

44. (withdrawn) An agent according to claim 43 wherein said modulation of the expression of said genetic sequence is up-regulation.

45. (withdrawn) An agent according to claim 44 wherein said up-regulation inhibits cell growth.

46. (withdrawn) An agent for use in the modulation of cell growth in a mammal comprising inhibin.

47. (withdrawn) An agent according to claim 46 wherein said cells are prostate cells.

48. (withdrawn) An agent according to claim 47 wherein said prostate cells are malignant.

49. (withdrawn) An agent according to claim 46 or 47 or 48 wherein said inhibin is α -inhibin.

50. (withdrawn) An agent according to claim 49 wherein said up-regulation inhibits cell growth.

51. (withdrawn) An agent for use in the modulation of cell growth in a mammal comprising an inhibin antagonist.

52. (withdrawn) An agent according to claim 51 wherein said cells are prostate cells.

53. (withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an agent capable of modulating expression of a genetic sequence encoding inhibin thereby modulating cell growth and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers and/or diluents.

54. (withdrawn) A claim according to claim 53 wherein said inhibin is α -inhibin.

55. (withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition comprising inhibin capable of modulating cell growth and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers and/or diluents.

56. (withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 55 wherein said inhibin is α -inhibin.

57. (withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an inhibin antagonist capable of modulating cell growth and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers and/or diluents.

58. (currently amended) A method of screening a mammal, said method comprising screening for a down regulation of inhibin protein level in said mammal wherein the down regulation of said inhibin protein level relative to the inhibin protein level of a normal mammal is indicative of said mammal having ~~being predisposed to develop prostate cancer or having already developed prostate cancer.~~

59. (canceled)

60. (previously presented) The method of claim 58 wherein said inhibin protein is an α -inhibin protein.

61. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 60 wherein said α -inhibin is α N or isoform thereof.

62. (previously presented) The method of claim 60 wherein said α -inhibin protein is an α C inhibin subunit or comprises an α C region.

63. (currently amended) The method of claim 58, 60 or 62 wherein said down regulation of inhibin levels is the absence of inhibin ~~expression~~.

64-68. (canceled)

69. (previously presented) The method of claim 58 wherein the mammal is a human.

70 -71. (canceled).

72. (previously presented) The method of claim 58 wherein screening comprises:

obtaining a sample from said mammal; and

contacting said sample with a molecule that detects inhibin protein.

73. (currently amended) The method of claim 58 wherein said screening ~~process~~ is selected from the group consisting of processes consisting of an immunoassay, immunostaining, immunohistochemistry, *in situ* hybridization, immunolocalization, and combinations thereof.

74. (previously presented) The method of claim 72 wherein the sample comprises prostate tissue.

75. (previously presented) The method of claim 72 wherein the sample comprises blood.

76. (currently amended) The method of claim 72 wherein the molecule detects an inhibit protein ~~dimer~~ dimer or an inhibin protein monomer.

77. (previously presented) The method of claim 72 wherein the molecule interacts *in situ* with inhibin protein within said sample.

78. (previously presented) The method of claim 72 wherein the molecule comprises an antibody.

79. (previously presented) The method of claim 78 wherein the antibody is specific for α subunit of inhibin protein.

80. (previously presented) The method of claim 78 wherein the antibody is labeled with a detectable reporter molecule.

81. (previously presented) The method of claim 72 wherein the molecule is detected by an antibody labeled with a detectable reporter molecule.

82. (previously presented) The method of claim 80 or 81 wherein the detectable reporter molecule is selected from the group consisting of an enzyme, a fluorophore, a radionuclide, a radioisotope, a chemiluminescent molecule, a bioluminescent molecule, and combinations thereof.

83. (currently amended) A method of screening a mammal for prostate cancer ~~or predisposition to the development of prostate cancer~~, said method comprising:

obtaining a biological sample from the mammal;

determining a level of an inhibin protein in said biological sample; and

comparing said level determined with a level ~~known~~ known to be indicative of a normal mammal, wherein a down-regulation of said inhibin protein level in said biological sample relative to the inhibin protein level of a normal mammal is indicative of said mammal having developed prostate cancer.

84. (previously presented) The method of claim 83 wherein the mammal is a human.

85. (previously presented) The method of claim 83 wherein the biological sample contains prostate tissue or blood.

86. (currently amended) The method of claim 83 wherein the level of inhibin protein is the level of inhibin protein ~~dimer~~ dimer or α inhibin monomer.

87. (previously presented) The method of claim 86 wherein the inhibin is an α C inhibin subunit or comprises an α C region.

88. (previously presented) The method of claim 86 wherein said inhibin is an α N inhibin subunit or comprises an α N region.

89. (previously presented) The method of claim 83 wherein determining the level of the inhibin protein comprises contacting said sample with a molecule that detects said inhibin protein.

90. (previously presented) The method of claim 89 wherein said molecule is an antibody.

91. (previously presented) The method of claim 90 wherein the antibody is specifically reactive with the α subunit of inhibin.

92. (withdrawn) The method of claim 83, wherein determining the level of the inhibin protein comprises contacting said sample with a probe that detects inhibin mRNA.

93. (previously presented) The method of claim 83 which determines the presence or absence of prostate cancer in said mammal.

94. (canceled).

95. (currently amended) A method of screening a human for prostate cancer ~~or a predisposition to the development of prostate cancer~~ comprising:

obtaining a biological sample from the human; and

contacting said sample with an antibody specific for an inhibin protein; and

detecting binding of said antibody to determine a level of said inhibin protein in said biological sample, and comparing said level determined with a level known to be indicative of a normal human, wherein a down-regulation of said inhibin protein level in said biological sample relative to the inhibin protein level of a normal human is indicative of said human having developed prostate cancer.

96. (previously presented) The method of claim 95 which determined the presence or absence of prostate cancer.

97. (canceled).

98. (previously presented) The method of claim 95 wherein said inhibin is an α C inhibin subunit or comprises an α C region.

99. (previously presented) The method of claim 95 wherein said inhibin is an α N inhibin subunit or comprises an α N region.